

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16 (cancelled).

Claim 17 (new): A method of inputting alphanumeric characters, the method comprising:

 associating at least one key with a plurality of characters;

 simultaneously displaying the plurality of characters in a preselection window of a display in a first manner indicative of a number of keystrokes for each of the plurality of characters, the number of keystrokes for each of the plurality of characters being based on a first previously entered character;

 simultaneously displaying the plurality of characters in the preselection window in a second manner indicative of a different number of keystrokes for each of the plurality of characters, the different number of keystrokes for each of the plurality of characters being based on a second previously entered character;

 receiving a character selection; and

 displaying the selected character in an inputted region of the display.

Claim 18 (new): The method of claim 17, wherein the first manner indicative of the number of keystrokes includes the display order associated with the plurality of characters.

Claim 19 (new): The method of claim 17, wherein the first manner indicative of the number of keystrokes includes a marker associated with at least one of the plurality of characters.

Claim 20 (new): The method of claim 19, wherein the marker includes at least one of a cursor and a highlighted character.

Claim 20 (new): The method of claim 17, wherein the plurality of characters includes at least one digit and at least one letter.

Claim 21 (new): The method of claim 17, wherein in response to the input of a first digit, the input of a second digit requires that a key associated with the second digit be pressed only once.

Claim 22 (new): The method of claim 17, wherein in response to the input of a first letter, the input of a second letter requires that a key associated with the second letter be pressed only once.

Claim 23 (new): The method of claim 17, wherein symbols may be input as well as alphanumeric characters, such that, in response to the input of a first symbol, the input of a second symbol requires that a key associated with the second symbol be pressed only once.

Claim 24 (new): A method for inputting alphanumeric characters, the method comprising:

defining at least one key to have an associated plurality of characters including at least one digit and at least one letter, with one of the plurality of characters able to be input using a particular number of keystrokes which are associated with the one character;

requiring that a key associated with one digit be pressed only once based on input of a another digit when a string of characters is input;

requiring that a key associated with one letter be pressed only once based on input of a another letter when the string of characters is input; and

displaying at least one preselection window simultaneously showing the plurality of characters which can be input using the at least one key in an order which corresponds to a current association between each character and a number of keystrokes which are required for inputting each character, wherein the currently selected character is shown in highlight.

Claim 25 (new): The method of claim 24, wherein symbols may be input as well as alphanumeric characters, such that, in response to the input of a first symbol, the input of a second symbol requires that a key associated with the second symbol be pressed only once.

Claim 26 (new): An apparatus for inputting alphanumeric characters, comprising:
at least one key associated with a plurality of alphanumeric characters;
a memory device for flexibly storing information relating to an association between inputtable characters and a number of keystrokes required for inputting the characters;
a display device for displaying a preselection window which is used to select a character to be input; and
a processor device structured to require that (i) a key associated with one digit be pressed only once based on input of another digit when a string of characters is input and that (ii) a key associated with one letter be pressed only once based on input of another letter when the string of characters is input, the processor causing the preselection window of the display device to simultaneously show the plurality of alphanumeric characters which can be input using the at least one key in an order which corresponds to a current association between each character and a number of keystrokes which are required for inputting each character, wherein the currently selected character is shown in highlight.

Claim 27 (new): The apparatus of claim 26, wherein symbols may be input as well as alphanumeric characters and the processor device further requires that that (iii) a key associated with one symbol be pressed only once based on input of another symbol.